### **SALT WATER RINSE FOR THE NOSE**

# Mississippi ENT Surgical Associates (601) 709-7700

## Scott E. Harrison, M.D. • Stephen F. Lee, M.D. • C. Michael Osborne, M.D. Benjamin T. Jeffcoat, M.D.

#### Benefits

- 1. Washes crusts and other debris from your nose.
- 2. Pulls fluid out of swollen membranes of your nose, making it easier to breath and helps to open sinus passages.
- 3. Helps the nose work better and moves mucus out of the nose faster.

#### Recipe

- 1. Carefully clean a 1-quart glass jar. Fill the clean jar with tap water or bottled water.
- 2. Add 2 to 3 heaping teaspoons of "pickling/canning" salt. **Do not** use table salt, which has unwanted additives. You can get pickling/canning salt at your grocery store.
- 3. Add I rounded teaspoon of baking soda (pure bicarbonate).
- 4. Stir or shake before each use. Store at room temperature. After one week pour out any mixture that is left over and make a new recipe.
- 5. If the mixture seems too strong, use less salt-try 1 or 2 teaspoons of salt. For <u>CHILDREN</u> it is best to start with a weaker salt-water mixture. Then gradually increase to using 2 to 3 heaping teaspoons of salt, or whatever the child will accept.

#### Instruction

Plan to rinse your nose with this mixture 2 to 3 times each day. You will need a bulb/ear syringe or a large medical syringe (30 ml) that may be obtained from your pharmacist.

- 1. Pour some salt-water mixture into a clean bowl. The mixture should be body temperature, <u>NOT HOT or COLD</u>.
- 2. Fill the syringe with salt water from the bowl. Do not put your used syringe back into the jar, because that will contaminate your salt water.
- 3. Stand over the sink or in the shower and squirt the salt water into each side of your nose. Aim the stream toward the back of your head, **not** the top of your head. This lets you spit some of the salt water out of your mouth. It will not hurt to swallow a little. Repeat 2 to 3 times in each side of your nose.
- 4. Most people notice a mild burning feeling the first few times they use the salt water mixture. This usually goes away in a few days.

Modified from Otolaryngology Clinics of North America, David Parsons, MD